

CLAIMS

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1. ~~A table or counter mat having a composite sheet structure comprising a non-slip backing layer, a top liquid absorbent textile surface for resting cups, mugs or glasses, and an intermediate stabilisation layer joining the backing layer to the textile surface wherein the resultant mat is absorbent and readily able to be laundered~~

2. A table or counter mat according to claim 1 wherein the non-slip backing layer is formed from rubber.

3. A table or counter mat according to claim 2 wherein the non-slip backing layer is formed from a nitrile rubber.

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10 4. ~~A table or counter mat according to claim 3 wherein the nitrile rubber is in the range of less than 2 mm thick with a density of about 1000 grams per square metre.~~

5. A table or counter mat according to ~~any one of~~ claim 3 wherein the intermediate stabilisation layer comprises a heat curable material curable at temperatures greater than 100°C and preferably at about 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.

15 6. A table or counter mat according to claim 5 wherein the intermediate layer is formed from a non-woven polyester

7. A table or counter mat according to claim 6 wherein the non-woven polyester has a density of about 150 to 650 grams per square metre

8. A table or counter mat according to claim 5 wherein the textile surface includes a
20 textile marking providing a colouring or a print or advertising message viewable from above.

9. A table or counter mat according to claim 8 wherein the textile marking is formed by a

10 A table or counter mat according to claim 9 wherein the sublimation printing occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.

~~11~~ A table or counter mat according to claim 10 wherein the top liquid absorbent textile surface is formed from a polyester surface with a pile height substantially in the range of 3 to 7 millimetres.

12 A table or counter mat according to claim 8 wherein the top liquid absorbent textile surface is formed from a tufted nylon cut pile surface with a pile height substantially in the range of 5 to 10 millimetres.

10 13 A table or counter mat according to claim 12 wherein the textile surface has a density of about 600 grams per square metre.

14 A table or counter mat according to claim 13 wherein the textile marking is formed by an acid dye process.

15 15 A table or counter mat according to claim 14 wherein the dye process occurs such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.

~~16~~ A method of forming a table or counter mat including the steps of:

- a) forming a nitrile rubber sheet material as a backing layer,
- b) forming an intermediate layer of non-woven polyester fabric;
- c) forming a textile surface layer to form an upper layer,
- 20 d) aligning all three layers and compressing the layed up materials by a heated platen for a

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CONT.

~~wherein~~ the resultant table or counter mat lays flat and is able to support stably a glass or other similar liquid vessel with the ~~table or~~ counter mat liquid absorbent to absorb any spilled liquid.

17. A method of forming a table or counter mat according to claim 16 wherein the curing
5 and bonding of the nitrile rubber backing to the intermediate layer and upper textile layer occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.

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~~18. A method of forming a table or counter mat according to claim 16 including the step of providing a sublimation printing process by using a screen printed or digital image print paper
10 which carries the required design and placing on the upper textile layer surface of the bar runner blank with print face down and activating a heat platen to press the screen print or digital image print paper to the textile surface under a selected heat, pressure and time duration.~~

19. A method of forming a table or counter mat according to claim 18 wherein the curing
15 and bonding of the nitrile rubber backing to the intermediate layer and upper textile layer occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C and the sublimation printing occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.